Financing to Power Project by IDBI

*139. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has got a large number of power projects for financing during the fiscal year, 1997-98;

(b) whether proposals of about 32 power projects seeking assistane are pending with them;

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision to finance these power projects by IDBI will be taken; and

(d) the total amount required and the projects to be cleared during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) 16 applications of power projects are pending with IDBI, at present.

(c) According to the IDBI these projects will be taken up for financing based on an appraisal by the financial institutions, which would inter alia take into account factors like techno-economic clearance from CEA, environmental clearance, fuel linkage and signing of a bankable Power Purchase Agreements with SEBs.

(d) During 1997-98, IDBI has approved 4 power projects with assistance sanctioned at Rs. 1550 crores.

Finance for Indo-Bangla Power Project

*140. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance Indo-Bangla Power exchange projects;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the share of each country in these projects, project-wise; and

(d) the states likely to be benefited from such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The ADB, under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme, has agreed to finance a feasibility study for electricity exchange between India and Bangladesh.

(b) and (c) The feasibility study would, inter alia, identify the inter-tie points, quantum of power supply at each point, nature of power supply (i.e. base load, peal load or off-peak power), commercial arrangements based on international commercial practices for sale/ purchase of power between countries and other related technical issues.

(d) The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern region of India to Western Bangladesh. The project also envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Bangladesh to the North Eastern region of India. Initially, this would be of benefit to States belonging to the Eastern and North Eastern regions of India and once all the links of the National Grid are complete, the benefit could extend to the country as a whole.

Import of Cables by Enron

1316. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed the Enron to import cables for its projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in the light of present recession in the domestic cable industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Detailed Projected Report for the Dabhol power project (Ph-1) of M/s. Enron envisaged import of plant and equipment including power cables, which was techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in July, 1994 and the Concessional Customs Duty Certificate was issued by the CEA for the import against "Power Project Import" under Heading 98.01 of Indian Custom Tariff Act. The imports would be as per the Government policy relating to imports.

Rail Travel Concessions

1317. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail travel concessions granted during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of concessions granted to political leaders, social workers, able-bodied persons, handicapped and ill persons during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any fresh guidelines for providing rail travel concessions to ill and handicapped persons and reducing the quota of able-bodied persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) As per rules contained in the Coaching Tariffs, concession i rail fares is admissible to 38 categories of persons like students, sportsmen,

disabled persons, certain categories of patients, Senior Citizens, etc.

In addition to the above, concession on ad-hoc basis were also granted to delegates for attending Annual Conferences of certain organisations of Social, Educational and Cultural importance, students of some educational institutions and persons for attending National Integration Camps of certain organisations. The total number of these concessions were as under :

	1994	1995	1996
Conference :	62	55	54
Students :	22	24	8
National Integration Camps :	40	35	42

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1318. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the time by which the CERC is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of finalising the proposal and it is expected that a Bill will be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

Role of Junior Telecom Staff

1319. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Not Cricket: Dirty tricks on the dirt track. The telecom tangel" appeared in the Business Standard, New Delhi on July 8, 1997; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway Vending Stall at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex

1320. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the passengers are facing hardships in absence of any Railway Vending Stall at the South Concourse and New Coaching Complex of Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demands of the passenger are fulfilled by the unauthorised hawkers;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to allow the situation to continue at the cost of Railway; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to set up some stalls at New Coaching Complex and others at the wall of the South Concourse of the Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Sale of different eatable items including cold drinks, mineral water, tea, coffee, etc. are made available to the passengers through mobile platform vending. Besides, the snack bar and stalls on the first floor of the building are also well patronised. These facilities are adequate to meet the passengers' requirements.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Regular checks are undertaken for evicting the unauthorised hawkers from station premises. Provision of catering stalls at South Concourse and New Coaching Complex has not been considered necessary.

Power Generation in 8th Plan

1321. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total power generated both hydel and thermal in the country by the close of the Eighth Plan as against the installed capacity;

(b) the comparative rise in power generation cost and resultant rise in power tariff in the country;

(c) the power generation projection both thermal and hydel during the Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the strategy formulated by the Government to achieve the projected power generation to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The details of the total power generated